



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAM UPDATE

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Matthew 25:35

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 20, 2019	May 28, 2019	Click here to enter a date.

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INFORMATION REPORT

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

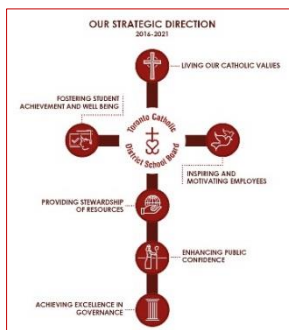
The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs) within the Toronto Catholic District School Board support the creation of welcoming, healthy, and equitable learning environments for all students. Over the last two decades, with increased Municipal and Provincial grants, SNPs have significantly increased in number, and the vast majority have moved from “snack programs” to “morning meal programs”. “Snack programs” include up to two food groups, served in the morning or afternoon, whereas “morning meal programs” include up to three food groups, served in the morning, after the start of the school day.

In addition to its original mandate of supporting nutrition in priority communities, Student Nutrition Ontario has added an educational component to SNPs focusing on promoting healthy, life-long eating habits and the development of healthy bodies and minds.

The TCDSB values SNPs as critical to its system-wide poverty mitigation strategy as it strives to ensure equity of opportunity and outcomes for all students.

This report presents a brief overview of the history of SNPs in the TCDSB and provides an update on the status of SNP sites requiring retrofits following routine inspections by Toronto Public Health.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 10 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. This report responds to a September 6, 2018 Board motion at the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting that:

“The SO responsible for the nutrition programs will provide updates to the Board related to the nutrition program and how the situation with health violations is being dealt with by staff.”

C. BACKGROUND

1. The TCDSB began offering Student Nutrition Programs in 1998 in 19 schools.
2. There is a total of 195 schools (elementary and secondary) currently operating in the TCDSB. Of the 195 schools, 28 do not operate a SNP.
3. In this school year, there are 184 SNPs in 167 schools as follows:
 - a. one hundred and sixty-seven (167) schools operate SNPs;
 - b. one (1) of the 167 schools, Monsignor Fraser College, operates 17 SNPs in its 7 campuses.
4. These programs continue to be funded through a grant application process for Municipal and Provincial funding. Currently, the Province has placed a moratorium on grants for any new programs.
5. Presently, SNPs serve approximately 59,276 TCDSB students, calculated from the number identified in 2018-2019 school applications for SNP program funding. School Nutrition Programs are available to all students.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Toronto Public Health (TPH) sets operational standards for Student Nutrition Programs.
2. In Ontario, SNPs must meet the same strict operational standards required of commercial restaurants.
3. In 2018-2019, 11 SNP sites received conditional passes as result of recent, routine TPH inspections.
4. These conditional passes were related to the requirement that each site have 3 sinks, one of which must be a separate designated handwashing sink.
5. Each program found to be in non-compliance was required to alter its menu to prepackaged foods only. This is both an unaffordable alternative to the program in most sites, and lacks the nutritional value found in fresh foods.

Further, this alternative does not meet the grant requirement that SNPs serve non-prepackaged foods.

6. Toronto Catholic School Board staff met with TPH staff on January 30, 2019 to address the retrofits required to bring the 11 identified sites into compliance. This resulted in the enactment of a plan to bring all identified sites to TPH standards.
7. To date, 10 TPH identified schools have been brought into compliance.
8. Staff have further conducted an internal audit of the 156 remaining SNP sites to assess current needs in meeting TPH operational standards. Staff determined that in addition to the 11 TPH identified sites:
 - twenty-seven (27) SNP sites were already in compliance; and
 - one hundred and twenty-nine (129) remaining SNP sites required retrofits.
9. The 130 SNP sites that are currently not meeting the TPH standards, are operating in accordance with recommended TPH provisional operational procedures:
 - first, hand washing occurs in a non-food preparation sink;
 - second, produce is washed in existing sinks; and
 - third, food preparation equipment is washed, rinsed, and sanitized.
10. Facilities have developed a strategy to bring all SNP sites to standard. The plan addresses facility retrofits on a priority basis as follows:
 - priority 1: schools with no dedicated SNP space;
 - priority 2: E-PAN Schools (These schools have a dedicated SNP space.);
 - priority 3: sites with one sink; and
 - priority 4: sites with only a double-compartment sink.
11. The annual budget and timeline to bring all SNP sites to standard will be included in the 2019-2023 Renewal Plan to be presented to the Board for approval in the fall of 2019.

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board